

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4709

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 0703

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, GT

SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN NEWSPAPER COMMENTS ON CARTER HUMAN RIGHTS
POLICY

REF: GUATEMALA 668

1. IN LEAD EDITORIAL SIGNED BY OWNER-PUBLISHER JORGE CARPIO NICOLLE, INDEPENDENT DAILY EL GRAFICO COMMENTS FEBRUARY 2 ON CARTER ADMINISTRATION INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS. AFTER NOTING ADMINISTRATION STATEMENTS ON DISSENT IN USSR, EDITORIAL TURNS TO LATIN AMERICA. "CARTER'S WARNING HAS NOT VARIED: IN THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE THOSE RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED, AMERICAN AID, ECONOMIC AS WELL AS POLITICAL OR MILITARY, WILL NOT BE GIVEN. THE LATIN AMERICAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND THEIR LEADERS HAVE ASKED THE USG TO WITHDRAW ITS SUPPORT TO SOMOZA (SEE REFTEL), AS THE NICARAGUAN DICTATOR RUNS ONE OF THE MOST IRON DICTATORSHIPS IN THE HEMISPHERE. NOW IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW THE PROMISES OF CARTER WITH RESPECT TO REGIMES OF THAT KIND WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO REALITY.

2. "THE TREATIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS," EDITORIAL CONTINUES, "SIGNED IN 1968 AT THE UN, COVERING THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL, CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD, HAVE NOT BEEN RATIFIED BY
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THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS - INCLUDING GUATEMALA. THE FIRST STEP THE GOVERNMENT OF CARTER SHOULD TAKE IS TO PRESS THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA TO RATIFY THOSE TREATIES AND TO RESPECT THEIR CONTENT FROM A TO Z. THE INITIATIVE OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT IS WELL REGARDED BY ALL THOSE WHO ADHERE TO A DEMOCRATIC IDEOLOGY AND WHO ARE SENSITIVE TO THE ABUSES THAT

DICTATORIAL OR SEMIDICTATORIAL GOVERNMENTS COMMIT. IN
LATIN AMERICA THE VILLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS THE RULE,
NOT THE EXCEPTION.

3. "IT'S CURIOUS THAT IN 1968, ALL THE LATIN AMERICAN
COUNTRIES WERE THE MOST FERVENT ADVOCATES AT THE UN
OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS AGREEMENTS.
HOWEVER, THINGS CHANGED IN THE HEMISPHERE, AND WITH
THEM GOVERNMENTS. PERHAPS NOW IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO
RETURN TO THE STARTING POINT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE
CHANGE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE WIND IN THE WHITE HOUSE,
AND THAT OBSESSIVE BUT POSITIVE IDEA OF THE NEW
AMERICAN PRESIDENT."
BOSTER

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